

**EXPLOITATION OF LOVE IN *THE SONNET OF SHAKESPEARE (1609)*:**

**A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**

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**(1609):**  
**A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**

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ABSTRACT

**Yogi Daniar Setyawan A 320 090 268. EXPLOITATION OF LOVE IN THE SONNETS OF SHAKESPEARE (1609): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**

*This research paper aimed to show visible image of Shakespeare's Sonnets which analyzed by using a sociological approach. The objective of the research are to analyzing the sonnet based on the structural element and to analyzed the sonnets based on sociological perspective by indentifying from relationship between social historical background of English in late sixteenth century. This research paper belongs to qualitative research. Data of the research is the text from and it has taken based on the theme, thereabout consisting 23 sonnets a thematically. The primary data of the research is the Shakespeare's Sonnets from the book with entitled *The Sonnets of Shakespeare* by Thomas G Thorpe and secondary data of the research are biography of the author, websites, and other source about the sonnets, the social background of English society that support the analysis. The method to analyze of this data is descriptive analysis. The researcher comes to the conclusion as follows. Based on the sociological analysis, it is evident that Shakespeare exploited love theme in his sonnets. The exploitation of love themes was related to the upper class culture to which he belonged in which literature was considered as the main factor of civilized society. Literature became important of individual social strata in the society.*

*Keyword: Love, Sonnets, and Sociological Approach*

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## I. Introduction

*The Sonnet of Shakespeare* is a sonnet collection by William Shakespeare which already edited by Thomas George Tucker as collection of Cambridge Library and as a commentary about sonnet. *Shakespeare Sonnet* is about love, passionate and desire. The sonnet is having certain characterization inside in which there are correlation between story, sonnet 1 – 126 in which the poet strikes relationships *Youth Man*, a poet as youth man in this sonnet also struggle to get love from other person and in this sonnet, Young man like a person who is confusing in the journey to became as the great author. And the sonnet 127 – 152 is telling about desire to get love from the *Dark Lady* or his mistress, how a young man who loved his mistress is struggle forgotten desire to loving his mistress. *Dark Lady* as his mistress just knows about the passionate, *Dark Lady* also loved other man except the young man. In the two character of sonnet Shakespeare is also told about the desire of love and hope to get a love. The sonnet which Shakespeare wrote contains reality about true love and conspiracy in the love itself.

There are some articles, journal and book review about the *Sonnets of Shakespeare*. The researcher found some articles which made argument about Shakespeare and his sonnets. First, Antonia (UNM, 2009) with title *Human and Nature Beauty in Sonnets 18 and 21* that discuss about the figurative language in *Sonnet of Shakespeare*, she was made analysis about sonnets and talking about figurative language to relate the nature and human beauty in *Sonnets of Shakespeare*. Next article by Erica L. Zilleruelo (Wichita State University, 2008:pg 67-68) with entitled *Will's Will Be Fulfilled*. Almost same with the previous article, this article has comment and analyzes about inscriptive in the sonnet, especially on the figurative language. She argues that sonnets are about skill level from the speaker's on his (*Shakespeare*) sonnets. Other argument from Harvey Stanburgh (1996;5;1 ;pg 10) with entitled *Shakespeare Sonnet 144*. He was

made critics about one of the *Shakespeare sonnets* with analyze figurative language which be keyed to sociology of the author itself. Other journal from Alison Scott (summer 2004; 101, 3; pg 315) in entitled *Hoarding the Treasure and Possessing in Shakespeare's Sonnets to the Young Man*. This articles talking about the social status from the sonnet and from the background of the society. Another article, from M. L Stapleton (2004; pg 271) with his journal entitled *Making the Woman of Him: Shakespeare's Man Right Fair as Sonnet Lady*. In this articles, discuss about the theme of the sonnets from William Shakespeare which reputed as the real condition or true story from the author himself. Other comments came from Jhon Masefield (.2008 : 7) on the book Bloom's *The Sonnet* and argue that *Shakespeare Sonnet* is so divergent, ambitious and memorable, stands preeminently above his peers, "He is our best Sonnet-writer". From the nineteenth century, *Shakespeare Sonnet* has having website from internet and assuming new shape, sound, interaction, and media identities (Harold Bloom, 2002 : 16)

Underlying theory; This study analyzes the structural elements in the *Sonnet of Shakespeare* by Sociological analysis approach. Wellek and Warren (1962 :94 ) explained that "Literature is social institution, using its medium language." From the other the book entitled *Sociology of Literature*, Literature also defines as historical document of social life. Literature can be made to yield the outline of social history (Wallek aand Warren 1956 : 103). Swingewoods and Lauren (1972) state that Sociology and literature share similar concepts, and sociology is essentially the scientific, objective study of the man in society. In the society, human life contrasts with sociology which causes relationship between each other. In human life, sociology has function to study about society and culture, or social changes. Sociology of literature is historical background from the author. According to Wellek and Warren (1972 : 92) argue that; The social allegiance, attitude, and ideology of the writer can be studied not only on his writing, but also, frequently, in biographical extra-documents.

From the *Sonnet of Shakespeare*, there are many approaches and concept of sociology and literature as theory and perspective in sociological approach. In literary book, or critics more than theory to proposed about sociology of literature and sociological approach. According to Lauren and Swingewood (1972, 13-21) explained that the sociology of literature have a classification: (1) sociology of the society or community; this is a study of historical social condition from literary text and it focused on view of society in literary work. (2) Sociology of the writer, especially to the social situation of the author. It focused about the literary work between position where author's life and historical background of the author. (3) The sociology of the reader; from this perspective is study about the literary work and opinion of the reader attitude after reading the literary work. In the basically of the sociology of the society is a literature as perspective of human society. It explained that the social structure or social condition of the society on the periodic when the literary work was made.

#### **A. Research Method**

In analyzing *The Sonnets of Shakespeare (1609)*, the researcher uses descriptive qualitative research for his research on the *The Sonnets of Shakespeare (1609)* to analyze data, interpret data and collect data, the types of data of this study are the text in *The Sonnets of Shakespeare (1609)* from book by Thomas G Thorpe with thematically. The data sources are books or any information related to supports the Shakespeare Sonnet. The Object of the Study is structural element and sociological approach. The writer uses taking notes, reading the data, selecting the sonnet based in thematically, analyzing the subject matter and the theme, and make conclusion with sociological approach. In analyzing the data, the writer applies descriptive qualitative. The steps taken by the writer in analyzing the data are follows: the first is analyzing the data based on its

structural elements. The second step is analyzing the data based on sociological approach.

## **II. Research Finding**

### **A. Sociological Approach Analysis**

#### **1. Social Aspect**

In the *Sonnet of Shakespeare*, social aspect including several terms and namely Social Class, Social Relation and Social Status.

##### **a. Social Class**

In the *Shakespeare's Sonnets*, social structures were divided into several terms. But, basically based on the period *Shakespeare's Sonnets* is made in the Elizabethan Era. English Society was divided into three groups; upper class, middle class, and lower class. William was not mentioned directly, but he was made instance. In upper class from the sonnets reflected as the mistress or someone in high life and had having huge power better than other, the middle classes reflected as a community in the commonplace but they are had having same degree with upper class, while the community in low position and low economic level reflected as the lower class.

##### **b. Social Relation**

Based on the sonnet, it clearly reflects to differentiation between woman and man. . In other words, the *Sonnet's of Shakespeare* is explain that social relation about the same classes, because from the sonnets we can see that the sonnets is explain about differentiation between two position in upper class.

c. Social Status

In the *Shakespeare's Sonnets*, differentiation between rich class and poor class. Based on the sonnet, it was portrayed as difference between someone who had having authority and poor. In the other words, William Shakespeare is not described about the lower class in his sonnet, but he is drawn about the upper class in England Kingdom.

**2. Economical Aspects**

Social realities in the economical aspects that reflected in *Shakespeare's Sonnet* is not much describing about economical. The economical condition from the sonnet was portrayed riches, monetary and poverty. The economic condition from the *Sonnet of Shakespeare* is image of England Kingdom in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and Shakespeare is drawn about the economic condition from the upper class. In the *Sonnet of Shakespeare* is describing about the people who have more riches and in the good condition. The sonnets tell condition from the high life. William is explain in the sonnets about the other economic condition on the *Shakespeare's Sonnets* is monetary and he also describing people who spend their wealth in satisfied human wants. Most of these from the *Sonnet of Shakespeare* are explaining about economical condition from the upper class or in the royal court, but only few which describing about poverty and poor in the sonnets.

**3. Political Aspects**

In the *Sonnet's of Shakespeare* is not explaining about the political aspect clearly. William Shakespeare is not drawn about politic in his sonnets, but in the sonnets William Shakespeare is only give a image about frame who had authority. In the sonnets William is made a woman as powerful character in his sonnets. In others word, political condition from England society was lead by



woman or called The Queen. Actually, in the sonnet is not explained about government clearly. According to sonnets, William is not made critics about the Kingdom or Empire in England society. He is drawn politic based on the royal court. From the sonnets, he is drawn about the a woman as superior authority in a literally.

#### **4. Science and Technology Aspect**

Social realities about science and technology aspects in the *Shakespeare's Sonnets* are not describing clearly on the sonnet. Moreover, in the late sixteenth century have many scientists and many innovations. From the sonnets is also explaining about the nurse and physician. In other word, it can be explain that in the sixteenth century was familiar with the medicine or scientist in the medicinal treatment. Besides that, in the Elizabeth reign was noted for innovation and development while her administration. In totally, *Sonnet of Shakespeare* is not many talking about science and technology in the 16<sup>th</sup> century of the England society.

#### **5. Cultural Aspects**

In the *Shakespeare's Sonnets*, there are social realities which relevancy with cultural aspects. In the late sixteenth century in England have many lifestyles and daily activities. Accordingly, in the *Shakespeare's Sonnets* is also portrayed some cultural or activities, especially from the noble or upper class. In the royal court, many people who like with exhibition and art. From the sonnet, William was made cultural condition and situation of England society in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. People who lived in the 16<sup>th</sup> century are taking not of appearance especially from the woman in the royal court. In the *Shakespeare's Sonnets* is also portrayed some cultural or activities, especially from the noble or upper class. One of all activities the upper class is playing music and dancing. Moreover, in the Elizabeth reign the people in upper class often

hold the musical event and they are dancing. From the get dressed, the upper classes always nobly in each of banquet. It can be seen on this sonnet, the sonnet means;

(Sonnet 130: LL 2-4)

*Coral is far redder than her lips reds*

*If snow be white why then her breasts are dun*

The sonnet above is told about someone who gets dressed with elegant from the highlife. In the *Shakespeare sonnets* is visible image from the upper class and noble.

## 6. Religious Aspects

Social realities in the *Shakespeare's Sonnets* are also talk about religious aspect. In the *Shakespeare's Sonnets* was not much talk about religion, especially Britain religion. Moreover, in the Elizabeth reign the people was professing Protestantism as major religion at while periodic. According to the sonnets, there are not mentioned about Protestantism in use as major religion. But, the sonnets were showed about religion implicitly. The sonnet means;

(Sonnet 144: LL 6-8)

*Tempteth my better angel from my side*

*And would corrupt my saint to be a devil*

*Wooing his purity with her foul pride*

Based on the sonnet above, we can see that in the sonnet was not mentioned about religion.

## III. DISCUSSION

Having analyzed the sonnet based on sociological perspective, the researcher concludes that there are correlations between the underlying theories, structural elements of the sonnets and the social background of English society in late sixteenth century. Thus, the researcher can find the answer of the problem of the

research that is how exploitation of love is reflected on the *Shakespeare's Sonnets*. Thus, the exploitation of love can be traced from blending among the spoken to, figurative language, rhyme and rhythm, symbols and theme drawn by William Shakespeare in the *Shakespeare's Sonnets*. Besides that, it can be seen from the several aspects of the social realities such as social, culture and economic aspects. The background of England society in the late sixteenth century was exploitation of literary arts into an exhibition. From this, William Shakespeare is only describes an upper class condition.

The researcher is found several literary works from the other which also same discussion about *Sonnets of Shakespeare* and made all of the study as the comparison with the researcher analysis. Based on the previous study, it can be seen that in the sonnets there are correlation with the theory of sociological especially sociology of the author. Because, most of these from analysis are referring to the author himself, analyze about inscriptive, figurative language and background of the author who made. The researcher is made comparison between analysis before with using theory sociological approach and analyze the sonnets based on thematically. From the previous study, most of these about aim to William Shakespeare himself and delineation of diction from him.

#### **IV. .CONCLUSION**

In the *Sonnet of Shakespeare*, the writer analyze by using Sociological Approach Analysis.

Based on the sociological analysis, it is evident that Shakespeare exploited love theme in his sonnets. The exploitation of love themes was related to the upper class culture to which he belonged in which literature was considered as the main factor of

civilized society. Literature became important of individual social strata in the society.

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